selves the insects while they are alive. The fact that on a national basis the number killed is only a small proportion of that killed by cars is no justification. On a local level the number killed by a trap will be a much larger proportion but, more importantly, whereas cars kill on a random basis a trap is operated nightly in the same place. Such a trap is bound to exert a damaging effect on the surrounding population, especially if operated in a locality for a species of rare and local distribution. It is also a fallacy to assume that tungsten rather than mercury vapour light is more acceptable. Our own experiences both in the New Forest and here in the garden, have proved that even using a 60W. tungsten bulb very sizeable catches, including rarities, can be obtained. The fact that some moths don't survive when released is no justification for killing the lot!

It is stated that "it has been shown" that it is almost impossible to wipe out any moth population by intensive trapping, and that the catch will consist of species only in relation to their abundance. This is cold comfort when, having run a lamp here[1] for many years, many erstwhile quite common moths are nothing like as plentiful as they used to be. The local insect population is steadily being depleted by factors such as agriculture, reclamation of waste land, tree felling, building and caravan site promotion, and it is difficult to see why the regular killing of all catches throughout the flight period will not simply add to the toll.

In conclusion, it is hoped that this letter will persuade operators of Rothamsted traps that the wholesale killing of the catch is unnecessary and damaging. It is a pity that the Joint Committee for the Conservation of British Insects has shown so little determination in tackling this problem, even though their Code for Insect Collecting is quite specific about excluding the casual killing of catches in moth traps for subsequent examination. — D. C. N. Smith and Dr. F. H. N. Smith, "Turnstones", Perrancoombe, Perranporth, Cornwall, TR6 0HX.

Thera juniperata L. (Lep.: Geometridae) in the North. — Further to Mr. C. I. Rutherford's note concerning this species in 1974 (*Ent. Rec.*, **86**: 121), larvae have been found on Juniper purchased at a garden centre near here ("Plantland" on the A64 York Road outside Leeds) and the species is now established in the garden of Mr. A. Kelly of Red Hall, N.E. Leeds. He caught a number in his actinic trap and subsequently found the larvae. The plants involved have been traced back to a nursery at Green Hammerton, near Harrogate. Mr. Rutherford's supposition that the species has been introduced via garden planting would seem entirely correct, but the original source has yet to be established. — Dr. S. L. Sutton, Southlea, Gateland Lane, Shadwell, Leeds, LS17 8LN.

[1] Always ensuring that only those specimens required are killed, and that the remainder are carefully released out of harm's way.